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By: 
Brendy Lynn Belony

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor :Masaaki OKA
Filed :December 9, 2003
For :METHOD AND APPARATUS...
Serial Number :10/730,881

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 9, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Attached is a copy of a Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC dated March 9, 2006 from corresponding European Patent Application Number 03 028 249.5-2223. All of the references cited in this document were submitted in an IDS filed on August 11, 2005 and an IDS filed on August 11, 2004.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 § CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed

as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.


Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due. However, any fee determined to be due with this statement may be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

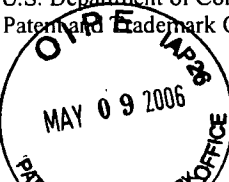
Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

Customer Number: 026304
Docket No: SCEP 20.778

Please type a plus sign (+) → +

1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 10/730,881
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <u>Sheet 1 of 1</u>		Filing Date :
		First Named Inventor: : M. OKA
		Group Art Unit :
		Examiner Name :
		Attorney Docket No. : SCEP 20.778

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
/GW/		Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC from corresponding European Patent Application Number 03 028 249.5-2223, dated March 9, 2006	
Examiner Signature	/Girumsew Wendmagegn/		Date Considered 10/23/2008

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
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